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Our Business and Our Pride.

Everybody knows that this country is either too poor or too indifferent to provide decent quarters for its department of foreign affairs. That it should conduct its business with the envoys of nations in buildings corresponding to the imposing structures which adorn the Quai D'Orsay and Downing street is, apparently, too much to be expected. But it will be news to most Americans to know that we are either too poor or too indifferent to provide our Secretary of State with room enough to introduce modern business methods.

Yet this is the showing made by Secretary Root, in his testimony before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. Here is part of what was said:

You can understand that the increase of business, the increased commerce of the country, and the increase in the number of consuls and of foreign missions, bring with it not merely a necessity for so many more clerks doing the same thing, but also a necessity for organization and system, which necessarily, when the business was small, was not needed. An increase in business creates a difference in kind.

You can do a small business in a simple way. To do a great business you will be swamped. We are coming in the State Department to a point where we are going to be swamped for lack of proper organization, and we cannot have a proper organization without having room for the men to do their work.

The records of the department are in a condition and are handled by methods which did very well under simple conditions, but which are now wholly inadequate. I want to introduce a new system, I want to apply the same methods of dealing with records with which I became familiar, and to a certain extent helped to develop in the War Department. I cannot do it because there is no room for the clerks to work, and for the cases to be placed and for typewriters to be worked. In the meantime we are having to go on by methods which I can best illustrate by saying that it is like a country law office having the business of a great city law office dumped down on it.

This is bad enough, to be sure. But it does not quite slap us in the face. Here are two things which will slap us in the face:

We have recently had the gentlemen together here who are to go to Rio de Janeiro. They spent three days here. I gave them the diplomatic anteroom. I made a special arrangement to keep the diplomats out of that room for three days while they got their maps, books, and material together. I ordered the subjects they would have to prepare on.

A short time ago the commissioners from China came here, and the only thing I could do to help them was to give them a luncheon there. Fortunately that hotel had a very pleasant room, and we were able to give them an entertainment which probably satisfied them. They were being treated with proper consideration; but in the State Department there were no means of receiving them in a manner which would have been regarded as commensurate with and suitable to their dignity.

If there is any doubt as to the fate of the bill which the subcommittee has reported it might be removed by cogitation over those two sentences: "I made a special arrangement to keep the diplomats out of that room for three days" and "in the State Department there were no means of receiving them in a manner which would have been regarded as commensurate with and suitable to their dignity."

We are proud people, we Americans. But it seems we are not too proud to crowd the nation's guests off the front porch.

That Divorce Decision.

Apropos the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, anent divorces, George H. Elwell, a Boston lawyer, writes to the Journal, of that city, as follows:

The United States Supreme Court decision on the Haddock case seems to be greatly misunderstood by the press. The claim that 20,000 children have been made illegitimate is actually absurd, as is also the claim upon which the first is based, that the validity of interstate divorces are destroyed.

The answer to the question as to how far the jurisdiction of the State court may extend beyond its own territorial limits in actions against the person always was dependent, and still depends, upon the comity between States.

It has never been obligatory for one State to give full faith and credit to the decrees of its sister State when in the case involved, the jurisdiction of the parties is questionable.

The case Haddock, though it might imperil 20,000 children born of marriages of divorced persons, should their individual cases be taken to the United States Supreme Court, does not in itself make these children illegitimate. Should a woman who divorced from her husband in another State be influenced by the Haddock case to bring her State suit for divorce, could he and she should not appear in defense she would fall to bring about the divorce result as in the Haddock case, for her decree, if obtained, would deserve no greater faith and credit than that of her husband.

In other words, the dictum, even of the Supreme Court, is not sufficient to plunge needlessly into trouble people who have always believed themselves within the pale of the law, and unless special exigencies arise that dictum need cause little disturbance throughout the country. Things will go on pretty much as they are, except

that "divorce residences" will lose something of their popularity and the marriage tie gain something in strength.

Welcome, Hobson!

Richmond Pearson Hobson is coming to Congress. Captain Hobson has proved his staying qualities by his struggle to break into the House of Representatives. There are not many men who could have lived down the fearful misfortune of being made first a national hero, and then a national joke. Hobson has done it. There is considerable evidence that he is really sorry for having been a hero, and that he has never tried to capitalize it into anything more substantial than Chattanooga audiences. As to his kissing record, the fact that he is married makes it reasonable to infer that he will not indulge in any more spectacular long-distance contests of that sort.

The trouble with Captain Hobson is that he will come to Washington with a mission. Nothing is more dangerous to an aspiring statesman than to have Congress get the notion that he is coming down here to show it. Congress doesn't like to be shown. Hobson has permitted the impression to get abroad that he is going to revolutionize the Congressional attitude toward the navy. He will discover, we imagine, that the channel is commanded by very heavy ordnance, and that the gunners on the heights are on the lookout for his expedition. It will take him two or three terms of patience to get out of the fo'c'stle, and then, from the doubtful vantage ground of a position at the tail-end of the minority of the Naval Affairs Committee he will discover uncharted shoals and eddies, rocks and reefs, currents and tides, to make navigation of the legislative ocean one dread nightmare.

Captain Hobson has our best wishes. We are for the reformers, and he is of them. He has admitted it for a long time. Even if he doesn't at once reorganize the naval policy of Congress, he will be a useful addition to the Washington landscape. He will help the rubber-gum lecturers to a new humorous allusion, and will be an inducement to visitors to visit the House gallery at least when the Senate arena is crowded.

Coal for Washington.

Washington now has a local interest in the hearing being had by the Interstate Commerce Commission, in pursuance of the Tillman-Gillespie resolution. The showing of yesterday tended to establish that the Pennsylvania railroad had undertaken, successfully, to restrict the shipment of coal to the District of Columbia. According to the freight traffic manager for the Norfolk and Western railroad, the coal freight agent of the Pennsylvania gave him plainly to understand that "if the Norfolk and Western undertook to go into Washington, the Pennsylvania would go into Norfolk and Western territory."

Another allegation—that the all-rail lines undertook to force the tide-water lines to accept a raise in coal rates—is of a more general interest, but Washington shares in it especially. For the Capital is easily available to shippers of coal who would reach it by water. If, therefore, the land-and-water lines are to be so restricted that they cannot use the Potomac as a means of shipping coal to the District, this community may be very materially the loser.

It will be noted that so far none of these things has been proven. They have the form merely of allegations or admissions. Nevertheless, they give us of Washington a distinctly personal interest in the hearing, and we will do well to follow it closely.

The hearing of Albert T. Patrick, the New York lawyer now under conviction and death sentence for murder, will be reopened tomorrow, on his application for a new trial. Not in many years have the eccentricities of American criminal jurisprudence been better illustrated than in this case. The man who confesses to the killing is free. Patrick, whom nobody accuses of it, is to be hanged, because, forsooth, the guilty man claims that Patrick had him hypnotized and forced him to do the deed! The story sounds more like a witchcraft inquiry at old Salem than a modern court proceeding. Yet Patrick faces the electric chair, and though a powerful and influential body of opinion has been organized to demand that he receive the benefit of the doubt, it is still up to the court to determine whether he shall have that benefit.

POOR MOTHER!

How many cares does a mother's heart know?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many joys from her mother-love flow?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many prayers by each little white bed?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many tears for her babies has she shed?
Nobody knows but mother.
How many kisses for each baby's head?
Nobody knows but mother.
—Author Unidentified.

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY



MRS. DAVENPORT BROWN, Formerly Miss Marie McKenna, Whose Marriage Took Place at High Noon Today at the Home of Justice and Mrs. McKenna.

MIDWEEK EVENTS IN SOCIAL WORLD

Busy Day Scheduled for People of Prominence.

Several large weddings, including the marriage of Miss McKenna and Davenport Brown, will take place today at the home of Justice and Mrs. McKenna.

What with sprightly "Julie Bonbon" on the boards at the Belasco for the benefit of San Francisco sufferers, and all the social world out in full force to see Miss Clara Lipman and Louis Mann in the play; another visit from the French officers who had luncheon with Secretary Bonaparte, and who will dine with the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand tonight, and the several prominent weddings on for today, social life is quite full of interest.

The Brazilian ambassador will leave Washington at 3 o'clock this afternoon accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Pedreira, the naval and military attaché, and Viscount de Alentejo, the minister from Portugal, as the guest of Col. R. C. Shannon in his private car. They will make a trip through some of the larger Western States and through Canada before returning to Washington.

The Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur left the city at 10:30 last night for a few days' visit in Baltimore, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Vanderbilt.

Commander Hebbinghaus, naval attaché of the German embassy, will leave for Boston today, and for a few days will be much entertained in Boston by many friends.

Senator and Mrs. Foraker were hosts at a dinner last night which was to have had for its guests of honor Miss McKenna and Davenport Brown, with their wedding party, but for which they sent regrets on account of the unsettled Pacific Coast conditions. The guests were Miss Foraker and Miss Colton, who will serve as bridesmaids for Miss McKenna tomorrow; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pinckney, and Mr. and Mrs. King Valdemar, all of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, Colonel Bromwell, Mr. and Mrs. de Normandie, Mrs. Chapman Smith, Miss Errol Brown, Mrs. John Davis, Dr. Theodore Eastman, Robert Goodwin, Lawrence Bullard, Devereaux Barker, of Boston, and others.

Gen. and Mrs. A. E. Bates gave a dinner last night in honor of General and Mrs. Corbin. Asked to meet them were the new Chief of Staff and Mrs. J. Franklin Bell, Senator Hale, Senator Bacon, Senator Burrows, Senator Warren, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. Sloat Fassett, Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Newberry, General and Mrs. Johnston, General and Mrs. Sharp, General Crozier, Mrs. Sheridan, Mrs. Barney, Captain and Mrs. Clever, Miss McMillan, Mrs. Clement, Mrs. Swift, Captain Horton, and Miss Helen Patten.

Mrs. John B. Henderson entertained last night at Boundary Castle, giving a stereopticon lecture on famous gardens, and following with a supper for her guests who numbered about a hundred prominent society people.

A cookery exhibition and bazaar for the relief of the California earthquake and fire sufferers will be held under the patronage of Baroness L. von Hengelsmüller, wife of the Austro-Hungarian ambassador, at Rauscher's Hall, Connecticut avenue and L street northwest, Monday, April 23, beginning at 2 p. m. A large number of young ladies of the social set will assist in the undertaking by selling the articles exhibited. Tickets are now on sale at Rauscher's.

The Mexican Ambassador and Mme. Cassas have returned to Washington from a short visit in New York.

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Root have as their guest Mrs. Charles Foote, of New York.

Senator Don J. Domingo de Obaldia, Minister of Panama to the United States, sailed from Colon for New York on Sunday, to resume his post at Washington.

Mrs. Townsend will entertain at dinner this evening.

Miss C. E. Mason, principal of The Castle, a large school for girls at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, who has been staying at the Raleigh, will leave for city tomorrow for Philadelphia. While there she will be the guest of the Declaration of Independence Chapter D. A. R.

Human Interest Scenes

In the Ruined City

With his hair suddenly whitened by the terrifying experience through which he has passed, P. S. Keenan, a merchant of Terre Haute, Ind., has left for Colorado Springs with his wife. They were guests at the Grant Hotel on the night of the disaster and escaped with all their baggage. "My wife and I escaped with hardly any clothing on," said Mr. Keenan. "My wife had her stockings around her neck. After the excitement of the first shock had subsided I returned to the hotel and got our things and finished dressing in the street. I was fortunate in getting an expressman to take our trunks to the ferry. We rode so close to the fire that one side of the wagon was scorched."

Thirsty Children Made Drunk.

Children staggering with drunkenness was a result of the efforts of their parents to furnish them with water in some sections of the city. Men with homes in ruins sought in vain for water for their wives and children, who were suffering agonies of thirst, and at last they invaded the saloons and took whisky to the women. Unable longer to withstand the pleadings of the children, the mothers moiled small quantities of the fiery liquor into tin cups and the children drank it eagerly. The natural result was to increase the range of thirst, to say nothing of the drunkenness induced. The suffering among children is unspeakable, particularly among those who are ill. One child, ill with diphtheria, was carried in agony from its home by its parents on Wednesday night, and died on a lawn next morning.

Death and Drunkenness.

Terrible scenes of streets crowded with wounded people, of dead bodies neglected in the gutters, of drunken men fighting for places of safety, were witnessed in San Francisco by Mr. and Mrs. Zebadiah R. Winslow, of Chicago, who escaped on the first day of the disaster. Mr. Winslow is a member of the provision firm of Wagner, Winslow & Co., 210 South Clark street, and is prominent in Grand Army circles.

Robber Shot Dead.

An aged woman, trembling with fright, stood on a corner at the edge of the devastated territory. A man appeared at her side and attempted to wrest a ring from her finger, and as they struggled the assailant fell dead at her feet. A soldier had shot him down. The people of San Francisco are applauding this merciless meeting out of justice to thieves, which has led to scores of shootings and many deaths.

Bride and Groom's Experience.

After escaping from the heart of this city in an automobile on the forenoon of last Wednesday, after the beginning of the earthquake and whirling about in the machine for fifty miles, to San

April 27, will be sold the night of the performance by Miss Huff, Miss Merriam, Miss Marcia Butler, the Misses Mackay-Smith, and Miss Elsie Seymour. The ushers will be a number of the younger men in society here. Much interest has been manifested in the tableaux, and every effort has been made to make them artistically successful. The benefit for the orphanage will not close, however, when the curtain falls on the last performance. The proceeds from the supper which will be served immediately afterward in the Willard dining room, will also be for the institution. Miss Catherine Ridgely has charge of the tickets.

CLAIMED TO HAVE LIVED TWO MILLION YEARS

Man Who Shot Realty Dealer Is Adjudged Insane and Sent to Asylum.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 25.—Claiming to have lived on this earth 2,000,000 years, the coming marriage of John G. England, of Rockville, Md., his daughter, Miss Nettie M. England, to Clydesdale Griffith, Jr., of Laytonville, Va., was today postponed. The wedding will take place in June.

It is announced that Miss Mary Trail, daughter of Ezekiah Trail, of Rockville, Md., is to be married to James Brawner Echols, of Washington, on the 30th of June next.

Miss Blanche Pushaw and Thomas Edwards, Jr., will be married at 5 o'clock this evening at the Church of Our Father.

Miss Irene Floy Thomas and Charles S. Krouse, of Pittsburg, will be married this evening at North Carolina avenue, the home of the bride's parents.

P. P. Burke and P. F. McMahon left today for Atlantic City for a month's stay.

Mrs. Richard Anderson, of Sparrows Point, Ind., is visiting her mother, Mrs. L. E. Jones, of 130 East Capitol street southeast.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY IN FRISCO DESTROYED

The first official information confirming the report of the destruction of the branch laboratory and office of the Government Bureau of Chemistry, at San Francisco, Cal., was received yesterday by Dr. Wiley, head of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture.

The news was contained in a message received by Dr. Wiley from S. C. Gould, head of the San Francisco office. It came from Berkeley, Cal., and announced the complete destruction of the branch laboratory and office.

JONADAB VISITATIONS.

The official semi-annual visitations to the subordinate councils of the Sons of Jonadab have been arranged as follows: Pioneer Council, No. 1, Friday, May 11; Empire Council, No. 14, Monday, May 21; Centennial Council, No. 4, Saturday, June 2; Good Will Council, No. 9, Saturday, June 16; Monumental Council, No. 1, Sunday, June 17, and Potomac Council, No. 16, Saturday, July 7.

CHORAL SOCIETY GIVES RECEIPTS OF CONCERT

Money Realized From Rendition of "St. Paul" Next Monday Night Goes to Frisco.

At a meeting of the executive board of the Washington Choral Society in the Washington College of Music Monday afternoon last, it was decided that all of the proceeds over and above the actual expenses of the evening concert Monday night next in the D. A. R. Hall, at which time the society will render Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," shall be turned over to the relief fund for the California sufferers.

This should raise enthusiasm on the part of the public in this concert, and the society should be commended in its generous act by being greeted by a large and influential audience.

Monday evening last a magnificent rehearsal was held in the George Washington University Hall, and the next two rehearsals, Saturday afternoon and Sunday night, will be held in the D. A. R. Hall with the full orchestra, the soloists being there on Sunday afternoon. The board of managers particularly wishes to draw the attention of the students of music in the city. By presenting a letter to the ticket office from their teacher, a discount of 25 cents will be made on any seat in the house for students.

The board is congratulating itself upon the engagement of Miss Laura Louise Coombs to sing the soprano part. She has recently sung in New York with the New York Choral Society, the Herald saying of her singing: "Among the soloists the palm was certainly hers." Miss Coombs is not only a soprano, but she possesses a voice of excellent quality and large range. It is a voice essentially suited to oratorio work, singing musical, sympathetic, and full of volume, and one whose intonation is absolutely true.

Another great addition to the singing of Glen Hall, now acknowledged to be America's greatest tenor, and Miss Leila Livingston Morse, so long a favorite of the Washington public. Mr. Wrightson's voice is undoubtedly fitted for oratorio, but she says she will sing with a feeling and religious, yet dramatic, fervor as he does.

GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY TO VISIT CAVERNS OF LURAY

The excursion committee of the National Geographic Society has completed arrangements for its annual field meeting. It is proposed to visit the Luray caverns, and a special train over the Baltimore and Ohio and Norfolk and Western railroads has been arranged for.

The date of the excursion has been fixed for Saturday, May 12. It is expected that from 250 to 300 members will avail themselves of this opportunity to see one of the great natural wonders of this country.

The committee is making an effort to arrange for a lecture in this connection, announcement of which will be made later.

BILL TO ESTABLISH A POSTAL NOTE SYSTEM

A bill is being considered by the Senate Postoffice and Postroads Committee to adopt a postal note for the transmission of small sums of money through the mails. Postmaster General Cortelyou framed the measure.

By its adoption he would establish a bill supplement to the regular money order division of the postal note proposition, providing for the issuance of postal notes ranging in denomination from 1 cent to \$250.